

# 2020 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE LAWRENCE

Funded Partners: ACT Lawrence, Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, Change the Play, Inc., Lawrence Family Development & Education Fund, Inc., Lawrence Methuen Community Coalition / Family Services of Merrimack Valley, Lawrence YMCA, YWCA of Greater Lawrence

Funded by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research, the Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. Shannon is a multi-sector approach used to address a community's gang and youth violence problem. Each community receiving Shannon funding demonstrates the presence of risk factors for youth and gang violence. Shannon participants must be between the ages of 10-24 years.

## Strategies, Outcomes, and Funding Allocation\*

Total Funding: \$224,000

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
<b>Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention</b>	<b>34</b> Received Case Management Services	<b>60</b> Street Outreach Deployments	<b>\$32,000</b>
<b>Community Mobilization</b>	<b>600</b> Community Members Attended Events, Meetings, & Presentations	<b>24</b> Community Events, Meetings, & Presentations Held	<b>\$8,000</b>
<b>Education &amp; Employment</b>	<b>75</b> Participated in Education Programs	<b>47</b> Participated in Employment Programs	<b>\$33,600</b>
<b>Positive Youth Development &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>197</b> Participated in Youth Development Programs <b>160</b> Developed Communication & Conflict Resolution Skills	<b>106</b> Developed Leadership Skills <b>117</b> Engaged in Volunteer Work or Community Service	<b>\$150,400</b>

\*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Shannon CSI programs may have adjusted programming options (e.g., reduced numbers served to meet restrictions, remote programming) and/or shifted funding allocations.

## Youth Risk Assessments

43% LOW-RISK*	Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
34% MODERATE-RISK*	Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
23% HIGH-RISK*	Youth who are perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.

\* % of youth assessed for risk; responses in risk assessment may have been impacted by changes in context due to COVID-19 pandemic.

## Success Highlight

*"One of our teens was failing out of high school, living in a high gang neighborhood, and didn't have adult mentors to turn to. Through the Shannon program, he connected with staff and utilized the resources we provided. He is now doing well in school and has created social connections with peers and mentors. He is now less likely to join a gang due to the connections he created at the club."*  
~Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence

# Community Risk Factors

## Massachusetts

## Lawrence

Total Population (2019 Estimate)	6,892,503	80,028
Population Lives in Poverty	9.4%	21.4%
Unemployment Rate	8.0%	17.6%
Total School Population (2019-20)	983,058	17,357
Economically Disadvantaged	36.6%	78.5%
High School Dropout Rate	1.8%	5.0%

Sources: [www.census.gov/quickfacts](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts); [profiles.doe.mass.edu/](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/); [www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/](http://www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/)

## Gang Activity in Lawrence

5

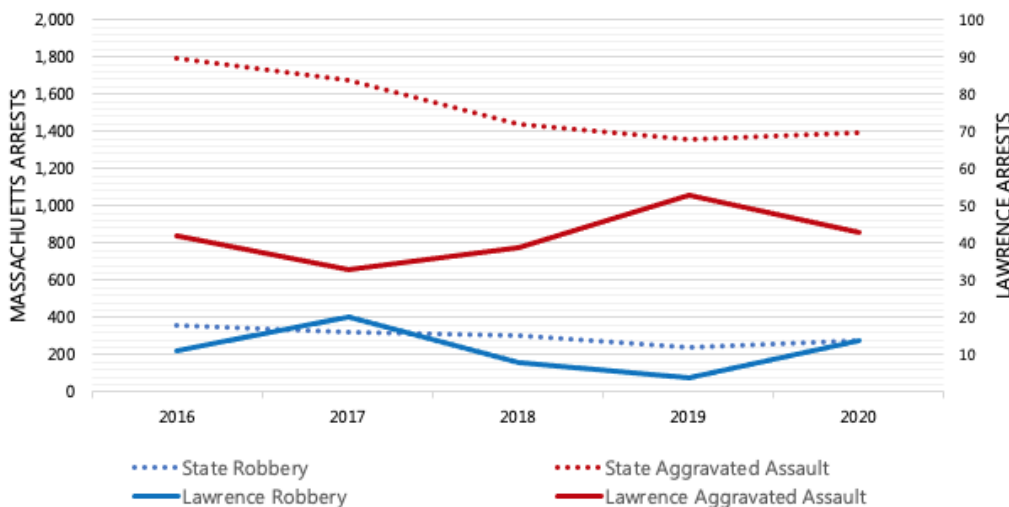
Street Gangs

850

Gang Members

In 2020, the Lawrence Police Department had knowledge of 5 active street gangs within the city comprised of approximately 850 members. As in previous years, because of aggressive gang recruitment within the schools, new gang members tended to be young, with ages between 14-24. Primary gang-related crimes included drug trafficking, drug distribution, robbery, motor vehicle theft, inter-gang violence (including shootings), check forgery, and the unlawful possession of firearms.

## 5-Year Crime Trends for Young People Ages 10-24, 2016-2020



### Changes in Crime for Young People Ages 10-24, 2016-2020\*

#### Robberies in...

- Massachusetts decreased 24%
- Lawrence increased 27%

#### Aggravated assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 22%
- Lawrence increased 2%

\*Lawrence does not keep statistics for simple assaults.

Information contained in this report is from funding applications, reports supplied by the site, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, US Census, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and Office of Grants and Research / Research Policy and Analysis Division. Special thanks to the Statewide Research Partner, the Center on Crime and Community Resilience at Northeastern University, for preparing this brief.